Numb. 29.

Heraclitus Ridens,

AT

A DIALOGUE between *JEST* and *EARNEST*, Concerning the *TIMES*.

From **Saturday** November the *6th.* to **Tuesday** the *9th.* 1703.

Jeſt. THis Play-Houſe ſticks in *Nob*'s Stomach moſt unmercifully, that he muſt have a Kick at it in every Paper that comes out, and as he makes the Devil of the poor *Papiſt*, ſo he is ſo Complaiſant as to pitch upon the Theatre for a Chappel for him. *Nonjurors* he may vent his Spleen at for their pretended want of Reaſon; but at the ſame time he is forced to have recourſe to their Arguments, and Mr. *Collier*'s Review of the Stage is of great Uſe to the poor Mortal in his Merry Undertakings. He tells us, in Numb. 59, That *our Renowned Queen* Elizabeth *totally Suppreſs'd Stage-Plays*, and brings us in 55 Provincial Synods, 71 Fathers, 150 Chriſtian Authors of all ſorts, *amongſt whom, is the Tinker Bunyan*, and 40 Heathen Philoſophers, that have alſo Condemn'd 'em in their ſeveral Times. Now ſince your Age and Experience have the Preference before mine, and the Hiſtories of paſt Ages are deeply impreſs'd upon your Memory, I deſire to know whether your Sentiments are agreeable to his, and whether his Aſſertions in this Paper are not as little to the purpoſe as in his other?

Earn. He tells us, Players were Rogues and Villains by the Statute Law of old *Rome*, if ſo, How came *Cicero* in his Oration for *Roſcius*, to carry the Cauſe on his Client's ſide? And if it were ſcandalous to be ſeen in their Company, What made the Great *Scipio*, and *Lælius* make *Terence* one of their intimate Familiars; nay more, made 'em joyn in writing Plays with him who was an Actor as well as Poet, as the Hiſtorians of thoſe times will evidently make appear? They were Gentlemen, above the Rate of ordinary Citizens, had been Proto's and Conſuls of *Rome*, were poſſeſs'd of the Higheſt Dignities, and yet thought it not beneath them to Converſe with what he ſays was below the Notice of the Meaneſt Freeman. As for his Remarks on Queen *Elizabeth*'s Reign, I have two Inſtances from the beſt Hiſtorian of Her Times to the Contrary, and you may make a right Eſtimate of the Verity of what he lays down for Truth, from the Falſhood of his Account.

Earn. From *Cambden*, *Eliz. An.* 1564. p. 57, 58. The Queen in the 7th Year of her Reign went in Progreſs, to take the Pleaſures of the Country, and viſited the Univerſity of *Cambridge*, one of the Eyes of *Britain*, where being with all kinds of Honour receiv'd by the Students, and Delighted with Comedies, Tragedies, and Scholaſtical Diſputations.

Out of *Cambden*'s Eliz. *Ann.* 1566, p. 67. Edit. 1635. Q. *Eliz.* in the 9th Year of her Reign, making her Progreſs into the Country, to recreate her Mind, that ſhe might ſhew her ſelf no leſs gracious to the Muſes at *Oxford* than at *Cambridge*, which gently envied one another, went to the Univerſity of *Oxford*, where being Magnificently Entertain'd, She ſtay'd ſeven days, being much delighted with the Pleaſantneſs of the Place, the Beautifulneſs of the Colledges, and the Wits, and moſt exquiſite Learning of the Students, who ſpent a great part of the Night in Comedies, and Tragedies, and the Days in Learned Diſputations.

Jeſt. What you have urg'd, ſhews that She rather encourag'd the Stage than ſuppreſs'd it, and the New Licenſe the Theatre in *Lincolns-Inn Fields* has had from the Court, is ſufficient to ſhew that Her preſent Majeſty Queen *Ann*, has no ſuch ill Opinion of it as not to tolerate it. But a Fig for Play-houſes, they are of uſe to make us Merry while we are out of 'em, give me ſomething that is Material. How does the new King of *Spain* do? When may we expect him? Or does the News hold true of Count *Starembergh*'s hitting the Grand Prior and his Army ſuch a Kick on the Breech, as muſt of Courſe bring his Brother the Duke of *Venadoſm* back from his intended Expedition againſt *Savoy*, to raiſe 'em upon their Legs again.

Earn. His Catholick Majeſty is expected hourly at *Spithead*, and Detachments from the Royal Regiment of Horſe Commanded by the Duke of *Northumberland*, were ſent down to lie on the Road as a Guard for him, on *Saturday* laſt; as alſo ſeveral Setts of Coach Horſes for that Prince and his Attendants, who are to Reſide at the Duke of *Somerſet*'s fine Seat at *Petworth*, till (as I am told) he ſhall have had an Interview with Her Majeſty at *Windſor*, and all Things are Ready for his Departure for *Portugal*. And Her Majeſty has deputed her Principal Officers of State, as the Duke of *Somerſet*, *Devonſhire*, *Schombergh*, and *Buckingham* to Receive him at his Arrival in her Kingdom. But as for the Report about Count *Starembergh*'s Succeſs, 'tis quite blown over, and it's to be fear'd there's nothing in it, no more than in the Story *Neb* rais'd of the *Cevennois* a Week or two ſince, where he made four Thouſand of 'em joyn the *Vaudois*, and act with them in Conjunction againſt *France*, without any Reaſon for ſo doing.

Jeſt

Jeſt. I thought as much. *Nob* can raiſe an Army for any Prince in Chriſtendom, and fill-up the new appointed Regiments before the Officers can well be nam'd, and has Forehead enough to ſpeak of Things while they are yet in their *Cauſes*, and before the *Materia Prima* can put on the Smock—Her Majeſty has made Choice of ſuch Perſonages to Compliment the New King of *Spain*, as will give him a juſt Value of our *Engliſh* Nobility. The Deputies of the States, were Burghers and Merchants; but She exceeds 'em in the Tokens of her Eſteem, and has ſent him ſuch as are Companions for the Greateſt Princes. But the News-Writers will be angry with us for taking their Province upon us, therefore let us quit Affairs of State, for thoſe of the Church, which are the Suport of it, and give me the remaining Authorities you promis'd me in the Cloſe of your laſt, that I may return the Compliment with ſome Intelligence of my own, and bring up the Rear with ſome more of our good Friends, the Diſſenters Reſolutions.

Earn. A Bargain, with all my Heart—— I think we left off with their own Champion John Calvin; and to prove that other Learned Men that have been bred up in Opinions contrary to thoſe of the Church, have had a great Value for the Purity and Uniformity of its Doctrines, the following Teſtimonies will ſuffice.

1. *Antonius de Dominus*, Arch-Biſhop of *Spalato*, (a Man rarely Vers'd in Antiquity) own'd our Mother for a Church truly Apoſtolical, and that too, when he was leaving us, and going to *Rome*.

2. *Hugo Grotius* (that Prodigy of Learning) told our Embaſſador in *France*, That if he return'd ſafe from *Sweden*, (which Crown he ſerv'd then under the Character of Embaſſadour) he reſolved to come and ſettle with his Wife and Children in England, as prefering that Church very much before all others of the Reformation.

3. *Gilbertus*, a *German*, in a Book of his, propounds our Book of *Common Prayer* for a Sample of the Forms of the Antient Church.

4. *Fridericus Spanhemius*, a Renowned Paſtor and Reader of Divinity in *Geneva*, doth zealouſly applaud and Congratulate unto us the Happy (and as he conceiveth) Flouriſhing Eſtate of our Church under this Government, magnifying the Graces of God in the Biſhops thereof, and ſhuts up with fervent Prayers to God for the continuance of the Authority of the Prelates of theſe Churches. *His Epiſt. Dedic. before the 3d Part of his* Dubia Evang. *to the Lord Primat of* Ireland. Ann. 1638.

5. *Danæus* Declareth, That the whole of the World hath never ſeen any thing more Bleſſed, nor more to be Wiſhed than is Queen *Elizabeth*'s Government in the Church.

Jeſt. All this is indiſputably true, but thoſe who cannot diſtinguiſh Colours, are no Judges of Beauty. The Adder will be deaf, let the Charmer Charm never ſo wiſely, and *Nob* will ſet the Preſs at work to vindicate the Contrary whatever comes of it, though to call him an *Obſervator*, is to Knight a Mandrake; or to give the Title of a Sir *Roger* to a Tubman: It is to view him through a Perſpective, and by that groſs Hyperbole, to Chriſten a Mouſe-Trap maker into an Engineer. Such an Author would hardly paſs Muſter with a *Scotch* Stationer in a Sieve-full of Ballads and Godly Books, and he is not of uſe enough to make a Breaſt-plate for a Begging Traveller. Let the poor Man's Box be Entituled the Exchequer, and the Alms-Basket a Magazine, for not a Worm that gnaws upon *Hollingſhead* or *Stow*, but knows more Chronicle than he and his whole Tribe amounts to. However, take the Reſolutions of his Club along with you, they may be of uſe to let you into their Sentiments.

Reſolv'd, That any Member of this Club, may diſſemble with God, to put a Trick upon Man, provided he be out of the Pale of the Brotherhood; and that St. *Paul*'s Organs make *Heavenly Muſick* indeed, while an *Occaſionaliſt*'s going to that Cathedral puts him in Poſſeſſion of *Earthly Dominion*.

Reſolv'd, That the only Means to encourage and propagate the Doctrines of Rebellion here, is to preach up Aſſiſtance to the *Cevennois* Abroad; and that the readieſt way to Undermine the State, is to foment Diſcourſes of Perſecution in the Church.

Reſolv'd, That whenever we ſhall attain to the Helm of Government, and preſide in the Miniſtry, as in former Times, That we endeavour to get the Bill Repeal'd for Toleration, for the only way to continue us in our Poſts, is to Tolerate no Religion that denies the Sovereignty of the People.

Reſolv'd, That what is Sauce for a Gooſe, is not Sauce for a Gander; and that though we our ſelves have enjoy'd all the Privileges of the Queen's beſt Subjects, as Places of Truſt, *&c.* we provide ſuch an Oath, againſt any Opportunity that ſhall happen, as none but our ſelves ſhall be capable of taking.

Reſolv'd, That the *Scotch* Covenant is a *meer Lenetive Electuary*, and that *A Form of Words* may be provided for *Swearing*, not *Praying*, as may be of as great Force as *Nux Vomica*, to Caſt up all the Rites and Ceremonies of the Church.

Reſolv'd, Thet we Humble our ſelves no longer than till we get to be Exalted; and that we turn our *Faſts* into *Kentiſh Petitioner's Feaſts*, when we are arriv'd at the Power we all along *Faſted* for.

Advertiſement.

TO be ſeen at the *Butchers-Hall*, not a Mile from the *Monument*, a Clerk to a Company without a Syllable of Law, who, inſtead of *Noverint Univerſi*, can ſet down Mutton 3 Pence Half-penny *per* Pound with any Man in *Chriſtendom*; And if any Perſon has a mind to have a Cauſe Cut up very Maſterly, he and his Father ſtand ready at *Smithfield-Rails* every Beaſt Market Day, to Deſtroy both Client and Cauſe; and that People may not doubt their Abilities, Affidavit will be made before they undertake any Buſineſs, that they have as much Senſe as the two Fatteſt Oxen in the ſaid Market.

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